

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
MAY 31, 2013**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy Board meeting was held Friday, May 31, 2013, by teleconference at The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following members were present:

Jane H. Johnson, Chair
Denise Taylor
Craig Knowles
Freddy Seagraves, Consumer Member

The following members were absent:

Jennifer C. Clay

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Hope Harrison, Board Support Specialist

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Johnson welcomed new Board member, Craig Knowles. Mr. Knowles will serve as the Education Cognizant for the Massage Therapy Board.

Agenda: Ms. Taylor motioned, Mr. Knowles seconded, and the Board voted to approve the agenda with late agenda items added. None opposed, motion carried.

Election for Vice-Chair Position:

Mr. Knowles motioned, Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to elect Ms. Denise Taylor as Vice Chair. None opposed, motion carried.

M.T. Education Programs and Transcripts:

Mr. Knowles noted that the website is not user friendly and that applicants may have difficulty accessing important information. He suggested looking at ways for a smoother transition in licensure with applicants from other jurisdictions. Ms. Johnson recommended adding an agenda item to the June meeting to select members for a Rules Committee to review education program rules and policies and make recommendations to the full Board. Mr. Knowles will serve as the Board's "Education Cognizant".

Correspondences:

1. R. Barberio: Advocating approval of an application that was denied based on an unapproved school.
Board Response: Per Board Policy XIV Recognition of Out of State Massage Therapy Educational Programs: For those applications for licensure as a massage therapist in Georgia, received on or after July 01, 2007, the massage therapy education programs in states outside of Georgia's borders must have an assigned school code from the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB). Based on this policy, the Board's decision to deny the application stands.

Mr. Knowles motioned, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the Board voted to authorize the administrative staff to respond to correspondence as directed. None opposed, motion carried.

Petitions for Variance or Waiver requests:

- Merrick, Jamie: Rule 345-4-.02 Continuing Education Hours

Ms. Taylor motioned, Mr. Knowles seconded, and the Board voted to deny the petition for variance/waiver request as a substantial hardship was not proven. None opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session:

Mr. Knowles motioned, and Ms. Taylor seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2-(k) (4), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 (h) (2) & (4) to receive and review information pertaining to Applications. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Johnson, Taylor, Seagraves, and Knowles.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, May 31, 2013, Ms. Johnson declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during executive session.

Applications:

Ms. Taylor motioned, and Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to take the following action on applicants applying for licensure by Application and Reinstatement. None opposed, motion carried.

Licensure by Application:

Corley, Jessica	Approved for licensure
R.B.	Denied for licensure; must meet education requirements
Day, Deon	Approved for licensure
Gregory, Crystal	Approved for licensure
Kelly, Bridgette	Approved for licensure
G. T.	Denied for licensure

Licensure by Reinstatement:

S. C.	Pending additional information
W. W.	Pending additional information
M. F.	Approved pending Public Consent Order for Reinstatement

Ms. Taylor motioned, and Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to refer M. F. for a Public Consent Order for Reinstatement to include a fine and public reprimand for unlicensed practice. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Taylor motioned, and Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to approve the ratify list as shown below for applications reviewed and approved between meetings. None opposed, motion carried.

Ratify List (Applications reviewed between meetings):

Allton, Ronald	Approved for Licensure
Blake-Knox, Deborah	Approved for Licensure
Brown, Richelle	Approved for Licensure
Buffkin, Michelle	Approved for Licensure
Davis, Debora	Approved for Licensure
Harrison, Maria	Approved for Licensure
Malcom, Shetrese	Approved for Licensure

Miscellaneous Discussion Items:

Executive Director, Brig Zimmerman notified the Members of the Board that beginning in June, they will have a new Executive Director and administrative support staff assigned to the Board. The Licensure Analyst (applications) will remain the same. This Board will be placed under the Health Care II section who will be responsible for the administrative support of other therapeutic professions professional licensure Boards. Ms. Johnson expressed appreciation to Mr. Zimmerman for his work with this Board over the past seven years.

There being no additional business to discuss, Ms. Taylor motioned, Mr. Seagraves seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Hope Harrison, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

JANE H. JOHNSON

Chair

Brig Zimmerman

Executive Director

These minutes were approved on: June 28, 2013